

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (currently amended) A packet transfer control method on a packet switching device, said method comprising the steps of:

_____ sending a control packet including a traffic class indicative of a packet transfer priority and information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding from a source unit;

storing said information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding;
and

performing selective discard processing on user packets belonging to said particular traffic class in conformity with a predetermined discard condition based on priority indicated by said information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding according to claim 1,

wherein the selective discard processing is continued on subsequent packets included in part of the same message as data portions of already discarded packets, even if the subsequent packets deviate from the predetermined discard condition due to a change in congestion status ~~said packet switching device determines whether or not a data block included in a data portion of each user packet of said particular traffic class is divided from the same transmission message as a data portion of a previous user packet, and performs the packet discarding on user packets having the discard condition in units of transmission message.~~

Claim 6-8 (canceled).

9. (previously presented) A packet transfer control method according to claim 5, wherein said packet switching device excludes user packets including data blocks of the same transmission message as data portions of previously sent user packets from user packets to be discarded, and starts the discard processing from a user packet including a data block of a subsequent new message.

Claim 10 (canceled).

11. (currently amended) A packet switching device for transferring packets, comprising:

means for extracting a traffic class indicative of a packet transfer priority and information indicating a priority related to packet discarding from a control packet sent from a source unit;

means for storing said information indicating a priority related to packet discarding; and

means for selectively performing discard processing on a user packet belonging to said particular traffic class in conformity with a predetermined discard condition based on a determined by said priority indicated by said information indicating a priority related to packet discarding;

wherein the selective discard processing is continued on subsequent packets included in part of the same message as data portions of already discarded packets.

even if the subsequent packets deviate form the predetermined discard condition due to a change in congestion status.

Claims 12-28 (canceled).

29. (currently amended) A packet processing device for processing a packet, comprising:

means for extracting a traffic class information and sub-class information indicative of a packet transfer priority and information indicating a priority related to packet discarding from a control packet sent from a source unit;

means for storing said traffic class information and said sub-class information extracted from said user-control packet; and

packet discard control means operative to selectively discard user packets by specifying user packets to be discarded based on a priority related to packet discard indicated by said sub-class information,

wherein user packets are selectively discarded in accordance with said sub-class information to which each user packet belongs, even if the user packets belong to the same traffic class,

wherein each user packet includes a data block and a header portion which includes delimiter information which indicates a correspondence of said user packet to a data unit of a transmission message, and

wherein said packet discard control means specifies user packets to be discarded in data units of a transmission message based on the delimiter information in each user packet, and

_____ wherein the discard control means continues to selectively discard subsequent packets included in part of the same message as data portions of already discarded packets, even if the subsequent packets deviate from a predetermined discard condition due to a change in congestion status.